Belen Hotel, circa 1907

Belen's Art League

Our Lady of Belen
Christmas

Plans

The vacant old City Hall building was built in the 1920's by the WPA workers during the depression.

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Building are under review. The
elen Cultural Center Park will be a place
here community members and visitors can
ome to experience the cultural arts as partic-
ants or audience members. The Park will
ncompass a wide spectrum of arts and cul-
ural activities, including a variety of perform-
ng arts, art exhibits, and public events for the
hole family.

ll artwork is conceptual in nature only
rovided by Zimmer Associates International

he Heart Of Belen "WH

len, New Mexico is a town rich with his-
y. Founded in 1740 by two Spaniards,
ptain Don Diego Torres and his brother
aw Antonio Salazar, the town was named
er Our Lady of Bethlehem. Belen's English
nslation is Little Bethlehem.

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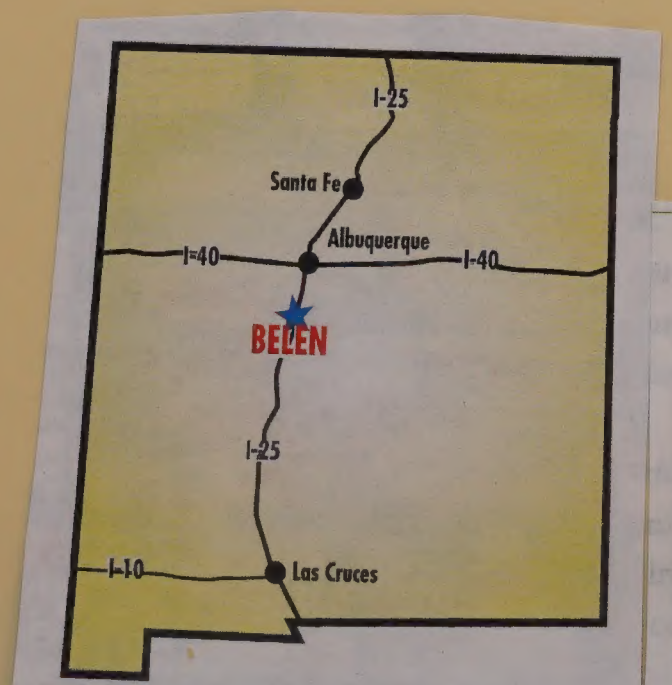
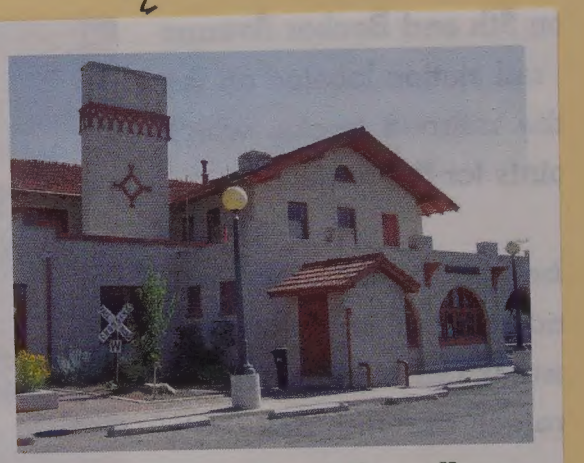
st a thriving agricultural community then
nercantile center of commerce, Belen's
aracter changed in the early 1880's with
arrival of the railroad. In 1907 the Belen
t-Off linked Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma

BHHC 4-1-30

1894 John Becker Store



Becker Ave and Dalies in the early 1900's



Built in 1910, the historic Harvey House Museum is one of Belen's most visited attractions

BHHC 4-1-30

on 5th and Becker Avenue
rail station located on the
he railroad tracks, which
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he historic Old City Hall,
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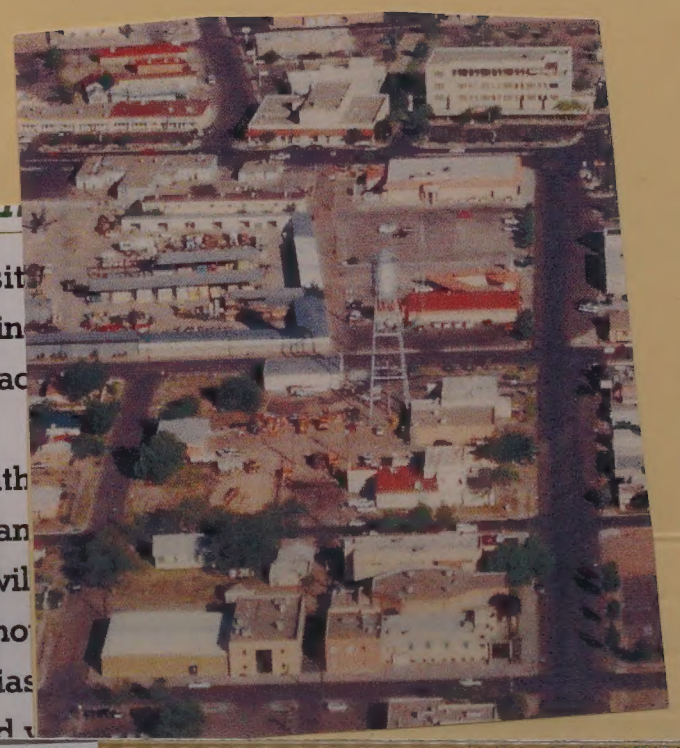

GOVERNMENT

Mayor & 4 City Councilors

FT Police..... 20

FT Firefighters..... 6

Volunteer Firefighters 30

City Operating Budget, FY05-06.... $16,579,950

City Total Revenues.....$17,296,149

HOUSING (County)

Single Family 11,544

Renter Occupied Housing Units 3,646

Mobile Homes 8,516

Median Home Price $108,300

Median Rent of Apartment ..... $490.

POPULATION

	1990	2000	2005 Est.
City of Belen	6,420	6,901	7,800
Valencia County	45,235	66,152	68,298

EDUCATION

Belen Consolidated Public School Dist. School Budget: $32,252,283.00

School	# of Students	# of Teachers
Elementary (8)	2,545	198
Belen Middle School	765	57
Belen High	1,331	88

St. Mary's Catholic School	# of Students	# of Teachers
Grades Pre-K to 8	76	14

CLIMATE

Annual High Average Temp .....73.8°
Annual Low Average Temp.....38.9°
Average Annual Rainfall (inches).....8"
Average Annual Snowfall (inches)..... 4.8"
Average % Relative Humidity.....45 %

City of Belen
100 S. Main St, Belen NM 87002
(505) 864-8221 - Main
(505) 864-8408 - Fax
www.belennm.com

Greater Belen Economic Development Corporation
100 S. Main St, Belen NM 87002
(505) 864-8221 ext. 23 - Main
belenedc@belenedc.org
www.belenedc.org

Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce
712 Dalies, Belen NM 87002
(505) 864-8091 - Main
(505) 864-7461 - Fax
belenchamber@belennm.com
www.belennm.com

BELEN FAST FACTS

The Historical Harvey House has become a museum showcasing the vibrant history of Belen, the railroad and the girls who made the Harvey House famous for service and elegance. The museum has an average of 500 visitors per month from all over the world.

BELEN FAST FACTS

In 1907 the railroad built the Belen Cut-Off, linking Amarillo and Belen. Merchant John Becker, who owned the bank, was instrumental in securing the railroad – and its money making potential – for Belen. Today, Belen is the third largest hub in the U.S with over 100 trains passing through daily.

Greater
Belen Chamber
of Commerce

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B

GREATER
Belen
Economic Development
CORPORATION

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www.belenedc.org

Located just 35 miles south of Albuquerque along Interstate 25 and the Rio Grande, Belen is part of the largest and fastest-growing metropolitan area in New Mexico. The city combines old New Mexico charm with modern convenience, excellent transportation options, and a vibrant economy. With low tax rates, reasonable land prices, and a business friendly city government, Belen is a great new home to grow your business.

Belen is a friendly, progressive, economic development - seeking community on the verge of major growth. Its clean air, great scenery, shopping, schools, and strong sense of community make it an excellent place to grow an enterprise and raise a family. Belen's newly revitalized downtown area and proximity to Albuquerque ensure that business owners and their families have access to the conveniences of the modern world and provide an attractive atmosphere in which to live and work. With easy access to Interstate 25, Belen is convenient to a host of shopping, recreational, cultural, entertainment and dining opportunities.

The Railroad in Belen

Construction of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway began slowly in 1868. By April 1880, there were tracks from Kansas over Raton Pass and to Albuquerque. In October, they reached San Marcial, 73 miles south of Belen. By March 1881, they reached Deming and joined with the Southern Pacific Railway tracks, creating the nation's second transcontinental railroad. By 1883, Harvey Houses had been built in Raton, Las Vegas, Wallace, Albuquerque, San Marcial, Rincon, and Deming.

Belen, though, remained just a small-town stop along the Rio Grande. In 1903, Belen's population was just over 1,200. But an influential and wealthy citizen of Belen, Don José Felipe Chavez, saw another possibility. Chavez, born in 1835, was the second richest man in the Territory by 1870. He later became a major stockholder in the Santa Fe Railroad and was privy to insider information. He knew the railroad wanted a faster route through New Mexico that avoided the steep grades of Raton Pass. Chavez convinced the railroad to build the route through Abo Canyon and into Belen. The new line, known as the Belen cut-off, was completed in 1908, three years after Chavez died.

The Santa Fe railroad routed most of its freight trains through Belen, Belen began to grow. When the Harvey House opened in 1910, the city's population was 1,733. There were passenger trains to Amarillo and El Paso. Eventually, the "San Francisco Chief" provided fast passenger travel from San Francisco to Chicago, with connections in Clovis on to Houston.

Belen was the mid-point on the route, and Belen became known as the "Hub City". By 1920 the population was 2,253.

4-8-4 Locomotive in Belen (1947)
[courtesy Denver Public Library]

With all the train traffic, there was a need for new facilities and new employees. The Belen roundhouse was built to plans drawn in 1906. The turntable was a 120-foot through-truss design capable of turning the railroad's largest steam power. A powerhouse was erected immediately behind the roundhouse. An ice plant and coaling station were also built.

Belen Roundhouse (1950's)
[courtesy kansasmemory.org, Kansas State Historical Society]

In the early 1950's the Santa Fe changed from steam power to diesel power. Belen, though, was the base for the very last Santa Fe steam operations. A handful of 4-8-4's and 2-10-4's were used in helper service over Abo Pass in 1956 and 1957

after steam operations had ceased everywhere else. But in November 1987, the railroad cleared out most of the remaining steam-era facilities in Belen, demolishing the roundhouse, the power-house, and the nearby water tanks. The turntable alone was spared.

Doodlebug train at Belen station (1937)
[courtesy Denver Public Library]

Today the BNSF Railway is still a major part of the city of Belen. BNSF employs 1,200 people in New Mexico, and many railroad retirees live in Belen. Nearly 100 trains pass through the rail yard every day, carrying freight between West Coast ports and Eastern markets. Each train stops here for refueling, safety inspection, and crew change.

The rail yard is now 14,000 feet long, making it one of the largest in the nation. Eight trains, each nearly 2 miles long, can be refueled here simultaneously. Each month an average of 20 million gallons of fuel are pumped into the locomotives, making Belen the largest fueling facility in the entire BNSF system. Four giant tanks in the yard store a total of 11 million gallons of fuel. With the completion of the Abo Canyon double-track project in 2011, system capacity has now grown to 130 trains per day.

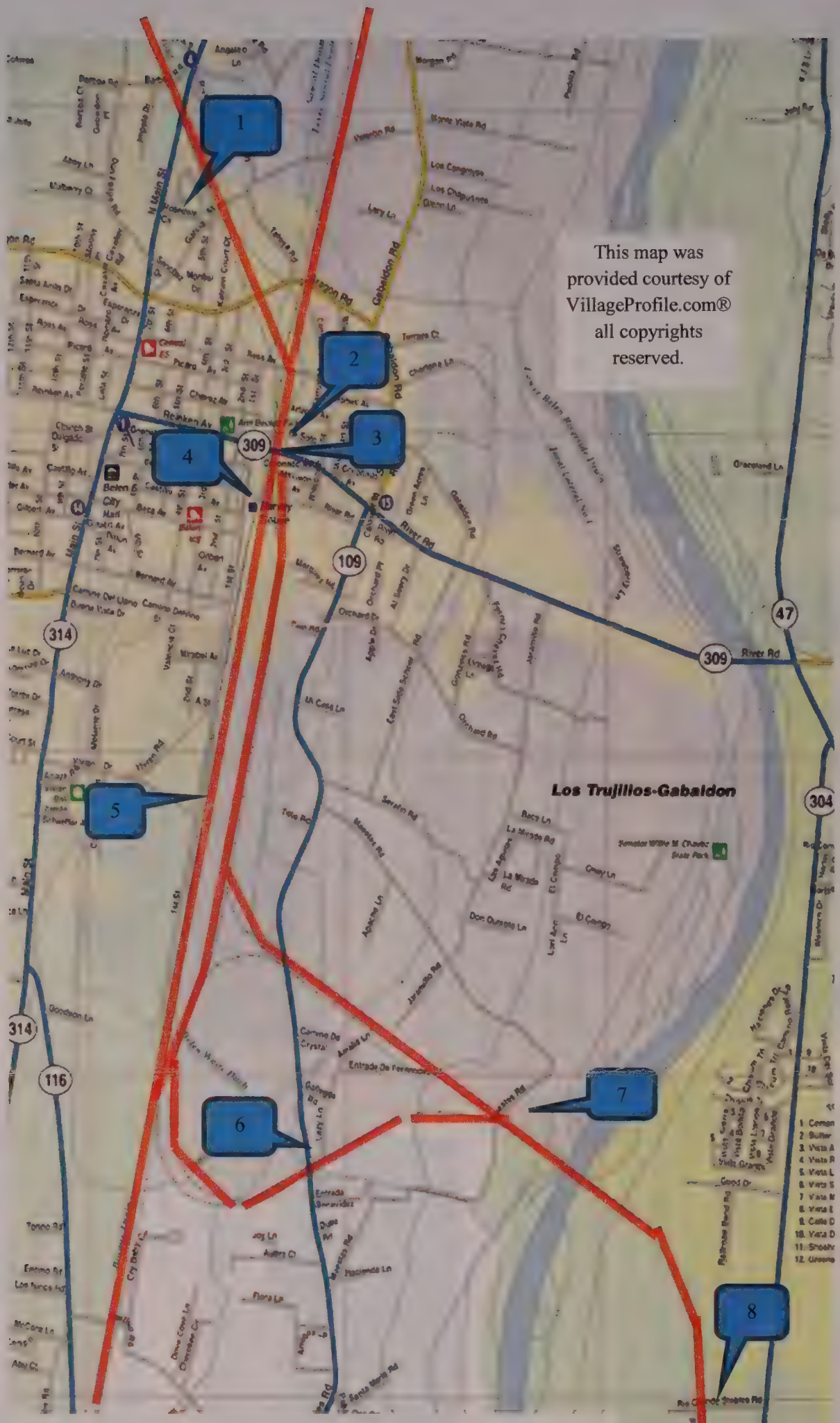
Belen is *still* the Hub City.

Rail Fan Guide
Belén, NM
The Hub City

BELEN
MainStreet

This pamphlet is a product of
Belen MainStreet Partnership
We're helping Belen grow!

www.belenmainstreet.com



Belen Train Spotting Locations

With so many trains passing through town every day, you won't have to wait long to see trains and take some great photos. Here are some suggested places to visit.

1) Rosedale Park.

This small park is right alongside the tracks. It contains a play-ground for the kids, a place to park your car, and a fenced area where you can view the passing trains.

2) The Rail Runner Station.

This is the best place in Belen to watch trains. The ramp from the parking lot to the overpass provides an elevated view of trains as they enter or leave the yard. And you can see the Rail Runner trains, too!

3) Reinken Avenue Overpass.

The sidewalk on the south side of the over-pass provides a good view of the rail yard. Notice the refueling station for westbound trains. There is parking at the west end of the overpass.

4) Belen Harvey House Museum.

If you stand in the portico here, the trains will pass by just a few feet away. Be sure to wave to the engineer.

5) First Avenue.

As you leave the Harvey House, drive south on 1st Ave. for about one mile to Vivian Rd. On this street you will be going right along-side the rail yard. But remember the yard continues for another two miles. It's huge!

6) Jarales Road crossing. Drive south on Jarales Rd. (Hwy 109) to the grade crossing. Just before the crossing, there is a dirt road (Lazy Lane) on the left. Turn left on this road. Park on the side of this road and watch the trains as they approach the yard.

7) Maestas Road. Park where the road dead -ends at the tracks. From this point, looking west you can see the broad curve the new tracks now make after the railroad enlarged the yard. The old railroad bed is also visible. Looking east you can see the railroad bridge over the Rio Grande.

8) Rio Grande Stables Road. For a view of trains traveling at higher speed, drive east on River Road (Hwy 309) and cross over the Rio Grande bridge. Then turn right (south) on Hwy 47. Turn right again on Hwy 304 and go about 2 miles. Turn right on Rio Grande Stables Rd., a paved road with a white stone gateway. The railroad crossing is just ahead. Here you can see westbound trains traveling at high speed just before crossing the river. Eastbound trains begin the long climb over

Scanners: Railfans with radio scanners know that scan-ners are an excellent way to monitor rail traffic. They also offer an insider's ear to conversation between rail crews, dispatchers, and train operators. Local radio traf-fic in Belen can be heard on the following frequencies:

Base	Mobile	Use
160.440		Maintenance of Way
160.590		Beevers to Belen Junction to Rio Pu-erco
160.860		Belen Terminal CP Aragon to CP Jarales
161.085		Belen
161.190		Vaughn to Belen
161.250	160.305	Car Department
161.295		
161.325	160.725	West Leads
161.370	160.770	East Leads
161.415		
161.475		Crew Change Vans
161.520	160.380	Mechanical Department

Safety:

Watching trains can be a lot of fun, but it can also be dangerous.

The tracks are the private property of the railroads, and trespassing is forbidden. Because of continuously welded track sections, trains don't necessarily make the sounds you might expect. That means they can sneak up quickly and perhaps unheard. Trains cannot stop in time if some-one is on the tracks. For your own safety, stay off railroad property. If you trespass, you may be prosecuted!

The Heart of Belen

Revitalizing Our Historic Downtown

Dear Citizens and Potential Investors:

What you hold in your hands is a vision for the new Belen, with the Heart of Belen as the focus of the revitalization process for our historic downtown. Over the course of two years the citizens of Belen, city officials, and other experts have come together to develop the concept you will see presented in this document. The ideas that are already shaping the new Belen are the result of the creative spirit of the region combined with information collected from numerous surveys and professional studies. This is the roadmap for Belen's exciting future.

The essence of Belen has been rekindled with the 2006 launch of the Rail Runner Express. Not only will this service allow commuters easy transit between Belen and Albuquerque, visitors will re-discover Belen and the charm being revitalized by the renovation of the Heart of Belen. Other indicators that Belen will continue on its path to becoming an increasingly thriving city are:

- New Mexico is the tenth fastest growing state in the country
- Forbes magazine ranked the Albuquerque Metro as No. 5 in the annual survey for the nation's Best Places for Business and Careers (2005)
- Forbes magazine ranked the Albuquerque Metro as No. 1 in the sub category of business costs (2005)
- Valencia County is the 2nd fastest growing county in the state of New Mexico (2005)
- Belen is home to BNSF's third largest rail hub in the country

These facts set the stage for Belen's renaissance amidst one of New Mexico's stunning landscapes that draws entrepreneurs, artists, writers and photographers from all around the world.

We invite you to explore these pages to learn more about what is happening in Belen, The Hub City. Better yet, contact the Greater Belen Economic Development Corporation to arrange for a one-on-one meeting to discuss how you can be involved in Belen's prosperous future.

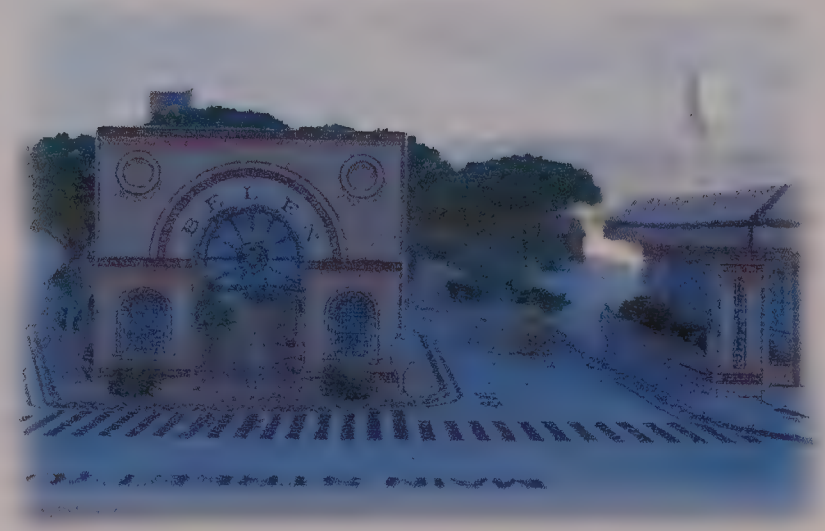
Kindest Regards,

Ronnie Torres

Mayor Ronnie Torres

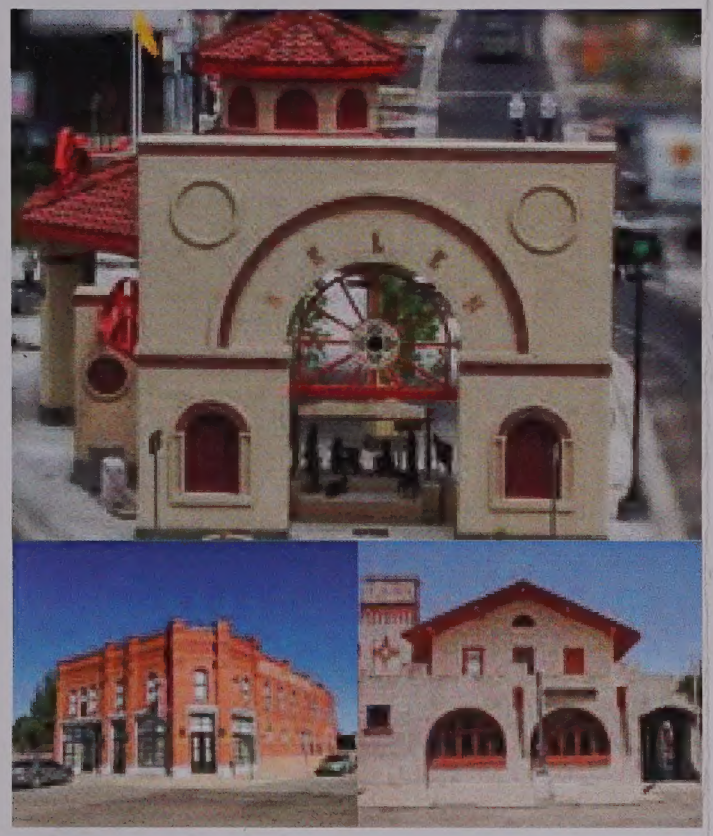
Heart of Belen Team

Name		Company/Organization
Claudette Riley	Executive Director	Greater Belen Economic Dev Corp
Ronnie Torres	Mayor	City of Belen
David Lopez	Mayor Pro Tem	City of Belen
Jeff Trembly	City Councilor	City of Belen
Cindy Clark	Director	Belen Chamber of Commerce
Ann Simon	Economic Dev Planner	Mid-Region Council of Governments
Joe Quintana	Regional Planning Mgr	Mid-Region Council of Governments
John Kirkpatrick	Architectural Intern	Village Architects
Julie Baca	Planning & Zoning Dir	City of Belen
Kathy McCormick	Dist 3 Regional Rep	NM Economic Development Dept
Carl Baca	Independent Developer	
The Idea Group of Santa Fe, LLC		
The New Mexico Rural Development Response Council		



The gateway into the Heart of Belen from Main Street

Visit the Heart of New Mexico!



Belen is the Hub City in the Heart of New Mexico. Visit our historic downtown area for great food, shops and the one-of-a-kind Belen Harvey House Museum, the only museum of its kind in New Mexico housed in a 104-year-old railroad building.

For more information...

Mainstreet Belen Partnership
P.O. Box 463, Belén, NM 87002
www.belenmainstreet.com

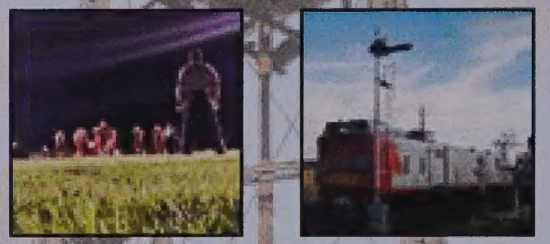
Greater Belén Chamber of Commerce & Visitors' Center
712 Dalies Ave., Belén, NM 87002 (505) 864-8091
www.belenchamber.org

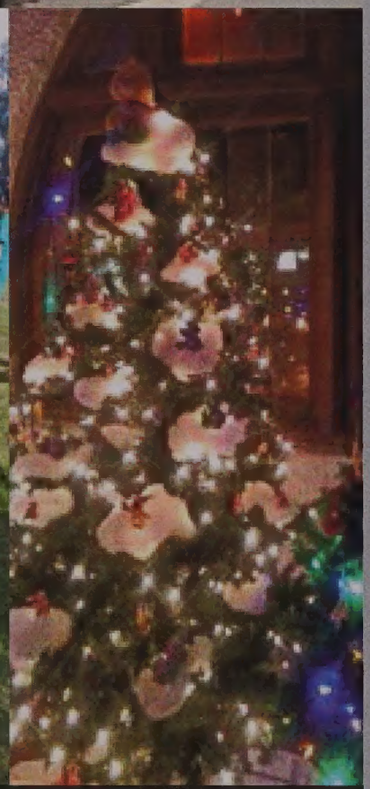
City of Belen
100 Main St., Belén, NM 87002 (505) 864-8221
www.belen-nm.gov

BELÉN

The Hub City

Visit the HEART of New Mexico!





2015-2016 Upcoming Events

Viva II	August 21-23, 2015
Rio Abajo Becker Street Festival	September 26, 2015
Fun Run & Walk	October 24, 2015
Miracle on Main Street	November 28, 2015
Bugg Lights Display	Nov 28 - Dec 31, 2015
Matanza	January 31, 2016
International Flight, Film & Food Festival	March 18-20, 2016

FILM BELEN

Come to Belen to film your movie or visit the sets where movies and television shows have been filmed. Explore the streets of downtown Belen where *Transcendence*, *Swing Vote*, *The Last Stand* and many other works have been filmed.

4 OPENS

BHHC-4-1-30

Belen Info

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